

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 9. *cancelled*

10. (*currently amended*) A method for providing access to multiple online accounts via a common password, the method comprising:

receiving a common password associated with an online account; and

determining if the universal password is valid for the associated online account based upon a designated password which was previously generated for the associated online account, wherein the designated password was previously generated based upon a password transform calculation, the password calculation based upon a user ID for the associated online account, the universal password, a server name and a random number.

11. *cancelled*

12. (*currently amended*) The method of claim 9 10, wherein the password transform is represented by a text conversion of the following hash function:

$$\text{Hash}(\text{Ui} + \text{Pc} + \text{Si} + \text{Nr}),$$

where Ui stands for a user ID, Pc for a common password, Si for a server name and Nr for a random number.

13. (*currently amended*) The method of claim 8 10, further comprising:
generating a designated password for each of the multiple online accounts which is accessible via the common password.

14. (*currently amended*) A method for providing access to multiple Web accounts via a universal password which is valid for the multiple Web accounts, the method comprising:

providing a designated password for each of the multiple Web accounts, the designated password being calculated for each of the multiple Web accounts based on a hash function which incorporates the universal password as an input to the hash function;

receiving the universal password for access to at least one of the multiple Web accounts;

determining if the universal password is valid based on the associated designated password for the at least one of the multiple Web accounts; and

providing access to the at least one of the multiple Web accounts provided the universal password is valid.

15. *cancelled*

16. *(currently amended)* The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the hash function also incorporates a user ID and an account server name as inputs to the hash function.

17. *(currently amended)* The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the hash function also incorporates a random number as an input to the hash function.

18. *(original)* The method of claim 14, wherein determining if the universal password is valid based on the associated designated password for the at least one of the multiple Web accounts includes:

receiving a user ID;

retrieving an encrypted random number based on the user ID;

receiving the associated designated password; and

comparing the received associated designated password with a corresponding saved designated password for the at least one of the multiple Web accounts.

19. *(original)* The method of claim 14, further comprising:

providing a new designated password for the at least one of the multiple Web accounts if requested.

20. *(original)* The method of claim 14, wherein providing a new designated password for the at least one of the multiple Web accounts if requested includes:

generating a random number; and

calculating the new designated password based on at least the universal password and the random number.